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of his wines here either, because here was a prize laden with wine which the Company had captured", is misleadingly mistranslated on p. 121 of the *Collections of the N. Y. Historical Society* (1857), second series, vol. III., part I., "and coming here he could not expose his wines for sale, because here was a tax upon wines which the Company had established."

The *Narratives* is remarkably free from errors. A close inspection showed but four. Claes Smits on p. 213 (note) should be Claes Swits. The fourteen English on p. 282 should be forty, but this may be a mistake in the original. Kill von Kull on p. 103 (note) should be Kill van Kull, as on p. 19, or perhaps more correctly Kill van Coll. Herr Stuyvesant on p. 349 is a misprint for Heer Stuyvesant. The clause "who has no interpreter" on p. 374 should read "who needs no interpreter".

We cannot believe all that their opponents averred against Kieft, Stuyvesant, and the West India Company. Does not the editor's arraignment of them on p. 289 seem to be too severe, especially in the light of the correspondence and other documents? The real burden of the charges was that New Netherland, on account of its small population, was in danger of being swallowed up by the English; further that all legislative, executive, and judicial authority centred in the Council of New Netherland, who were Company's officers. Had the "Remonstrants" confined themselves to exposing the absurdity of this condition without bringing in entirely irrelevant matter and unsupported charges they would have received a respectful hearing, and might have succeeded in bringing about a change in the constitution, though it is difficult to see how even this could have much benefited population and averted the dreaded absorption of New Netherland by the English.

DINGMAN VERSTEEG.

The History of Political Parties in the Province of New York, 1760-1776. By CARL LOTUS BECKER, Professor of History, University of Kansas. [Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 286.] (Madison, Wis. 1909. Pp. 319.)

THIS essay was presented at the University of Wisconsin in 1907 as a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The author explains in the preface that he has crystallized materials which were originally collected with an intention to write a history of the nominating convention in the United States. With such an object in view Professor Becker evidently began work by examining the sources of information concerning nominations and elections in the city and colony of New York during the years 1765-1776. The choice of period was wise. It was a time when committees representing various political factions were named and elected in mass-meetings, and gradually evolved an extra-legal system of government. In the heat of this struggle the

radical patriotic wing forced the adoption of a new and wider basis for the suffrage. Nevertheless, the conservative influences were so strong that three provincial congresses were elected under the direction of Revolutionary committees, and yet did not overturn and abolish the authority of the royal governor or interfere with the election of a general assembly of the province under the usual forms.

This story, so far as it reveals the modes of selection and various policies of the delegates and committees and the provincial congresses between 1773 and 1776, Professor Becker unrolls carefully and completely with a wealth of citation and illustration, in chapters here numbered v. and vii. to xi. inclusive. Chapter vi., which seems like an interpolation, presents a brief outline of the deliberations and conclusions of the first Continental Congress. In like manner the first three chapters contain introductory materials which are imperfectly fused with the story of the Revolutionary nominations and elections, and which by no means contain the history of political parties in New York between 1760 and 1773. The first chapter, a hasty review of social and political elements in New York, introduces in chapter ii. a brief account of the Stamp Act agitation. The third chapter reviews concisely the political controversies and disorders incident upon the attempt to maintain non-importation agreements in the years 1768-1770.

The author perhaps fails to realize how fervid the political contentions in New York City were during the thirty years preceding the outbreak of rebellion, or how continuous was the political life of the parties which followed the leadership of the Livingstons and the De Lanceys. He states clearly, in general terms, the causes of dispute between the assembly and the royal governors concerning supplies and salaries, and he describes hastily the social classes in the colony and the political affiliations of the prominent families; but he conveys little idea of the continuous active political life of the city. He barely alludes to the long and bitter contest between Presbyterianism and Episcopacy. This antagonism was in fact the most permanent principle of political difference in New York City for three-quarters of a century. It was at the bottom of the long struggle over the establishment of King's, now Columbia, College. It was the ever-impassable chasm between the two hosts of aristocracy, the Livingstons, Smiths, Schuylers, and Van Rensselaers, on the one hand, and the De Lanceys, Bayards, Coldens, Heathcotes, and Philipses, on the other.

The proposition to make the Established Church supreme by law throughout the colonies, first broached by an Archbishop of Canterbury in 1748 and revived by partizans from time to time especially in the years 1767-1769, nowhere aroused fiercer opposition than in New York where all the Whig leaders were Presbyterian lawyers. Judge Jones, the Long Island Tory historian of the colony, knew the source of the enthusiasm of his chief political opponents: "They were educated", he wrote, "at Yale College in Connecticut, then and still a nursery of

sedition, of faction and of republicanism." To the controversy between the Whig assembly of 1761 and Lieutenant-Governor Colden over the question of judicial tenures the author makes no reference although there is at least a dramatic interest in the experience of Mr. Benjamin Pratt, the Tory chief justice imported from Boston, who sat through two sessions of the supreme court without receiving a penny of salary or a minute's assistance from his associate judges.

To the powerful and interesting personalities of the New York leaders in both parties Professor Becker gives almost no attention. A history of political parties in New York after 1760 needs to turn a strong light upon the ambitious William Livingston, the first of our political leaders to realize the possibilities of the printing-press as an auxiliary, the learned William Smith, the courageous Philip Livingston, the shrewd, affable younger James De Lancey, the stern but statesman-like Cadwalader Colden. The author succeeds in producing a fairly continuous idea of the gradual evolution of the radical patriotic party out of the group known in 1765 as the Sons of Liberty, and of the progress of events which virtually forced the majority of the moderate conservatives to merge with the radicals rather than the loyalists; yet his account of the leaders who secured these results leaves much to be desired. It is surely doubtful whether Isaac Sears, son of a Yankee fish-peddler, by turns a sailor, privateersman, and small shopkeeper, is adequately described as a "vain carpet-knight".

Neither is justice done to the partisan leadership of Alexander McDougall, the author of what Colden termed the "Cut-throat circulars", the "Wilkes of New York", with whom in jail forty-five ladies breakfasted and forty-five gentlemen dined and the members of Hampden Hall cheered.

The book is furnished with a satisfactory index and an excellent bibliography. There are too many traces of hasty proof-reading. The statement on page 11 about the influence of freeholders in the elections of Albany County is repeated on page 14, and such evidences of carelessness as "Curocoa" (p. 66), "goal" (for gaol, pp. 81, 86), and "eminated" (p. 265), are too frequent.

Les États-Unis et le Droit des Gens. Constatations et Notes par ERNEST NYS, Conseiller à la Cour d'Appel de Bruxelles, Professeur à l'Université. (Bruxelles. 1909. Pp. 166.)

THIS is a reprint of a series of articles from the *Revue de Droit International*.

At the outset, Professor Nys states the plan and object of his book. It is not to examine the actions and influence of the United States from the standpoint of public law, but rather to study how the British colonies, become a nation, applied the rules of the law of nations, and shared in its progress. And he specifies the direction which such